



Commercial Diving School Requirements for Teaching KMDSI Operator/User & Technician Training

Michael F. Ward

1415 Moylan Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32407 office# 850-235-2715 email:dive@divelab.com web: Divelab.com

The Helmets, BandMasks and Full Face Masks of Kirby Morgan Dive Systems Inc. are known worldwide. The majority of the world's military and professional commercial diving operations use Kirby Morgan helmets and masks.

Dive Lab is contracted by Kirby Morgan Dive Systems (KMDSI) to oversee all official KMDSI equipment maintenance and repair training, and to provide technical information and guidance on all KMDSI equipment. To this day Dive Lab develops the repair and maintenance curriculum, trains all the KMDSI dealers and administers all official KMDSI/Dive Lab training. Dive Lab is a source of technical assistance and advice on technical and operational issues pertaining to KMDSI equipment. The current training program has been greatly expanded both in curriculum and content, and is available to all users (USA friendly) of KMDSI equipment. Training is available at Dive Lab, as well as many KMDSI dealers worldwide, as well as at 18 commercial diver training centers in 15 different countries.

All authorized KMDSI technician instructors are trained at Dive Lab in Panama City Beach, Florida. Dive Lab administers KMDSI training worldwide, primarily through the KMDSI dealer network and professional diver training centers. Not all KMDSI dealers are authorized to teach Technician Training however, all service dealers are authorized to teach Operator/User Training. Dealers that are authorized to teach Technician Training are selected primarily on geographical location, experience, technical background and language.

Currently, there are 18 credible schools worldwide that have integrated the Operator/User curriculum into their surface supply courses. Many of these schools are also authorized to offer the KMDSI Technician Course, as a specialty course. We welcome commercial diving schools, and would like all credible training schools to get involved with the KMDSI Operator/User and Technician Training Programs. This is provided we are given assurance that those teaching the Technician course do so, in accordance with Dive Lab's training guidelines and will be vigilant in staying up to date.

There are some schools that do not wish to integrate and teach the KMDSI Operator/User curriculum in their course and elect to teach the KMDSI helmets the way they see fit, and do not see the need for the KMDSI Operator/User training. That is up to them, we cannot stop them. However, if what the training facility is teaching in the use, maintenance, emergency procedures, is not in accordance with, or goes against what KMDSI/Dive Lab recommends, they could face liability, if injury or death occurs as a result of what, or how they have or have not been taught in the use of the KMDSI equipment. **Schools that are not teaching the official Dive Lab/KMDSI Operator/User Training are not eligible to become Technician Trainers.** In order for schools to become eligible to have persons trained to teach technician courses, the training facility must integrate the KMDSI Operator/User course into their surface supply training.



Commercial Dive School Requirements for KMDSI Operator/User & Technician Training

For schools desiring to offer the Technician Course as a specialty course, much in the same manner as Life Support tech, Diving Supervisor, incorporating the Operator/User Course into their curriculum is the first step. The instructors sent by the school for Technician Training should already have a good understanding of man worn life support equipment, sound technical ability, and knowledge of basic tools and tool use.

Before a training school can teach the KMDSI/Dive Lab Technician Training, we have several requirements that have to be met by the school.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

1. The school **must** provide Dive Lab with their Basic Surface Supply Curriculum outline of their Surface Supplied Course for review and what other specialty courses they offer
2. School Instructors must be employed by the school **full time** and can teach Technician courses through that school **only**
3. Schools **must** have at **least two instructors** attend the three-day helmet and band mask Technician Course here at Dive Lab, followed by a fourth day where we go over other material about the actual training of Operator/Users and Technicians.
4. School Instructors are required to teach or assist in teaching at **least two** Technician Courses per year
5. Schools teaching the Technician and Operator/User course must only train students **using the KMDSI equipment belonging to the school**. Anyone trained by Dive Lab using the KMDSI and Dive Lab curriculum, must abide by the requirements set forth in the training guidelines
6. Schools are only allowed to train at their facility and **are not allowed** to travel to other companies or area to do training. In addition, **schools that have not integrated the Operator/User training into their Surface Supply Curriculum cannot hire KMDSI Dealer Technician Instructors to teach courses at the school**, until the school has established the Operator/User training into their curriculum
7. Schools **must** only use genuine KMDSI repair parts and components obtained from an authorized KMDSI dealer. Schools are not authorized to perform repairs for profit and must limit repairs and overhauls to their own equipment
8. Once the school has certified two Technician Trainers, the school **must integrate and teach the Operator/User course in their Basic Surface Supplied Training Course curriculum**
9. Technician Instructor Training **must** take place on the Dive Lab premises. Unique/special products and equipment demonstrations are available at Dive Lab
10. School's Technician Instructors that have been trained at Dive Lab **can teach in house personal maintenance as Technicians (non-teaching only)**. School Instructors that have not received training at Dive Lab as Technician Instructors, are limited to teaching the Operator/User training only



Commercial Dive School Requirements for KMDSI Operator/User & Technician Training

11. KMDSI Dealers contracting with diving schools to teach Technician training can only do so, **if the school has integrated the KMDSI Operator/User Course** into the Surface Supply Curriculum
12. Schools **cannot** issue their own certificates for Operator/User or Technician Training. All certificates are issued by Dive Lab, Inc. only, after receiving the required properly filled out online course completion form. The cost is \$30.00 for each wallet card certificate, and an **optional** wall certificate is available for additional \$20.00. All wallet cards and/or paper certificates are sent back to the school for dissemination
13. The initial certification is valid for **three** years, and then goes up to **four** years, **if re-certified prior to the expiration date** of previous certificate
14. Schools **must** provide each student who completes the school's Surface Supply Training with a Dive Lab's Operator/User certificate upon graduation
15. Technician Instructors **must** teach all aspects of the helmet training in accordance with the guidelines and minimum requirements set by Dive Lab
16. Schools **must** submit the Operator/User course completion forms online to Dive Lab prior to the student's graduation date. This will ensure that students will receive their certificates on the graduation day

KMDSI and Dive Lab strongly recommend that schools restrict training of Technicians to other than brand new commercial divers or diving personnel that have just entered the commercial diving field, but rather to those that have a technical background and on the job experience in the commercial diving industry. There are some exceptions to this based on a case by case basis, such as schools offering a two year degree programs. Additionally, diving schools located near a KMDSI dealer that also offers Technician Training need to understand that quite often there is a disparity in cost between what the dealer charges for training and what the school charges. KMDSI and Dive Lab do not set prices or dictate the cost of Technician Training because of the varying cost of doing business throughout the world. Trainers should place an emphasis on training quality.

Dive School technicians are **not authorized** to repair KMDSI helmets and full face masks for profit and must limit repair and maintenance to the schools equipment and employees of the school **only**.

In some cases, some commercial diving schools have shown no interest in integrating the official Operator/User training into their basic surface supply curriculum and elect to teach the KMDSI helmets the way they feel they should be used. We cannot feasibly stop them; however, if what they are teaching in the use, maintenance, and emergency procedures is not in accordance with, or goes against what KMDSI / Dive Lab recommends, they could face possible liability if an injury or death occurs as a result of what, or how they have, or have not taught in regards to the use of the KMDSI equipment. Schools not teaching the



Commercial Dive School Requirements for KMDSI Operator/User & Technician Training

Operator/User curriculum as part of their basic surface supply course and are not issuing KMDSI / Dive Lab certificates issued by Dive Lab will not be eligible to provide the Technician course at their school. School instructors and KMDSI authorized dealer technician instructors must abide by the requirements set forth in the training guidelines and Technician Training Guide. It is also strongly recommended that schools document in writing, on the student course completion forms, which model helmets, masks and man worn equipment their graduating students have been trained to dive.

The **Operator/User Course** is a standardized course that has been in place for over 18 years. All commercial diving schools that use KMDSI helmets and full face masks should integrate this course into their curriculum so that all students learn how to use the equipment as intended, designed, and engineered by the manufacturer. Students graduating from schools with the KMDSI Operator/User Certificate will have an advantage over those that do not. Training centers that teach the Operator/User and Technician Courses offer the commercial diving industry far more than those that do not, resulting in greater knowledge and safety, awareness, while helping ensure industry professionals are being properly trained in the use of man worn, underwater breathing equipment.

For schools desiring to offer the Technician Course as a specialty course, much in the same manner as Life Support tech, Diving Supervisor, incorporating the Operator/User Course into their curriculum is the first step. Schools should have at least two instructors attend the three-day helmet and band mask Technician Course here at Dive Lab, followed by a fourth day where we go over other material about the actual training of Operator/Users and Technicians. The instructors sent by the school for Technician Training should already have a good understanding of man worn life support equipment, sound technical ability, and knowledge of basic tools and tool use.

KMDSI and Dive Lab are very pleased thus far. In the past 18 years, over 30,000 people have been trained, which we know has led to a significant overall improvement in diver safety. In general, the commercial diving industry technical training that has been available in regards to the operation, repair, and maintenance of helmets and masks, has often been neglected. This is evident when one realizes that up until a few years ago, many of the commercial diving schools did not have their own in-house technicians that had taken a course from the equipment manufacturer.

I have read and understand the technician and Operator/User training requirements set by KMDSI and Dive Lab. The training center listed below agrees to abide by the requirements set forth in this document agreement between commercial diving training centers and Kirby Morgan/Dive Lab. Before a school can participate in the KMDSI /Dive Lab training programs this document must be signed by the schools authorized training director acknowledging the requirements stated above, and willing to abide by the requirements as stated training schools/ centers that violate these requirements can be terminated as a Kirby Morgan/Dive Lab authorized training facility.



Commercial Dive School Requirements for KMDSI Operator/User & Technician Training

Name of School/Training Center

Print name of Training Director/Authorized Representative	Signature of Training Director/Authorized Representative	Date

For more information please go to www.divelab.com, or email us at divelab@divelab.com

Best Regards,
Michael F. Ward, President